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**IOWA RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION MEETING**

**Meeting.** The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) met on July 14, 2016, at the Holiday Inn and Suites at Jordan Creek in West Des Moines. The following action was taken:

**Debt Transaction:** The Commission heard from representatives from both Diamond Jo, LLC, and Diamond Jo Worth, LLC. Both representatives requested the Commission's approval for respective debt transactions. The IRGC unanimously approved these requests.

**Casino Expansion, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Sioux City:** Todd Moyer, General Manager of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, presented the IRGC with a request to approve a \$6.5 million expansion to the existing Hard Rock Casino facility. The 7,800 square foot expansion includes a wine bar, high limit gaming area, 60 slot machines, and a VIP lounge. The Commission unanimously approved the request to move forward with the expansion.

**Horsemen's Organizations Financial Audits:** The IRGC reviewed and approved four individual financial audits for the following organizations: the Iowa Quarter Horse Racing Enterprise, Inc., d/b/a Iowa Quarter Horse Racing Association; the Iowa Harness Racing Association; the Iowa Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), Inc.; and the Iowa HBPA Benevolent Trust.

**Contract Approval.** The Commission also approved multiple vendor contracts submitted by Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Sioux City; Diamond Jo Casino, LLC; Diamond Jo Worth, LLC; Isle of Capri Marquette, Inc.; and Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino. These contracts include advertising agreements, architectural services, and beverage and dining contracts, as well as entertainment booking and agent expenses.

**Greyhound Cessation Hardship Claims.** The IRGC heard two individual claims regarding financial hardship caused by the cessation of greyhound racing. [Senate File 2362](#) authorized the discontinuation of live greyhound racing in Dubuque County on October 31, 2014, and in Pottawattamie County on December 31, 2015. The legislation also established a Live Racing Cessation Fee to be paid the next seven years (2015-2022) by both establishments to fund the Iowa Greyhound Pari-Mutuel Racing Fund. The Fund is split equally, with 50.0% distributed to the Iowa Greyhound Association (IGA) to pay costs associated with conducting live racing and pari-mutuel wagering and 50.0% to be distributed by the IRGC to applicable greyhound industry participants, no-kill greyhound adoption agencies, kennel owners, operators, and greyhound owners for costs incurred in removing property from the dog racetrack located in Pottawattamie County. The Commission administers the Iowa Greyhound Pari-Mutuel Racing Fund and its distribution. Individual kennel owners, operators, and greyhound owners/trainers may file a financial hardship claim to be reviewed by the IRGC. The Commission heard two claims at the July 14 meeting. One claim was approved for a total amount of \$30,000, and the second claim was denied.

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair.** Effective July 14, 2016, Commissioner Jeff Lamberti stepped down after serving as Chair of the Commission for the past four years. The Commission elected Commissioner Richard Arnold as the new Commission Chair and Commissioner Kristine Kramer as the new Vice Chair.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 18, 2016, in Larchwood, Iowa, at Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort. The Commission will not meet in September 2016 and will resume their regular schedule in October 2016.

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